

**STUDY ON THE BENEFITS OF PRENATAL SURGICAL  
PROCEDURES TO TREAT BIRTH DEFECTS****CHAPTER 341**

H.B. No. 606

**AN ACT****relating to a study on the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:***SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:**

(1) "Birth defect" has the meaning assigned by Section 87.001, Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(b) The commission shall conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects. The procedures studied must include:

(1) fetoscopic placental laser ablation;

(2) maternal-fetal surgery; and

(3) any other type of prenatal surgical procedure that is or becomes the standard of practice for treating a birth defect.

(c) The study must analyze:

(1) the difference in average total cost to the Medicaid program, private health benefit plan coverage, and individuals and other payors between conducting a prenatal surgical procedure and a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect, including any continuing treatments needed after either procedure; and

(2) any improvement in survival rates, long-term outcomes, and quality of life for children with birth defects following a prenatal surgical procedure as compared to a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect.

(d) Not later than December 1, 2016, the commission shall submit a written report on the results of the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, House Committee on Public Health, and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

(e) This Act expires September 1, 2017.

**SECTION 2.** This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 29, 2015: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting;  
passed by the Senate on May 23, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective June 9, 2015.

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**DISPOSITION OF FETAL REMAINS****CHAPTER 342**

H.B. No. 635

**AN ACT****relating to the disposition of fetal remains.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 241.010 to read as follows:

*Sec. 241.010. DISPOSITION OF FETAL REMAINS. (a) A hospital shall release the remains of an unintended, intrauterine fetal death on the request of a parent of the unborn child, in a manner appropriate under law and the hospital's policy for disposition of a human body.*

*(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if the remains of an unintended, intrauterine fetal death weigh less than 350 grams, a hospital shall release the remains on the request of a parent of the unborn child, in a manner that is appropriate under law and consistent with hospital policy.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 8, 2015: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 23, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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## PETITION TO A STATE AGENCY FOR ADOPTION OF RULES

### CHAPTER 343

H.B. No. 763

#### AN ACT

**relating to a petition to a state agency for adoption of rules.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 2001.021, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

*(b) A state agency by rule shall prescribe the form for a petition under this section and the procedure for its submission, consideration, and disposition. If a state agency requires signatures for a petition under this section, at least 51 percent of the total number of signatures required must be of residents of this state.*

*(d) For the purposes of this section, an interested person must be:*

- (1) a resident of this state;*
- (2) a business entity located in this state;*
- (3) a governmental subdivision located in this state; or*
- (4) a public or private organization located in this state that is not a state agency.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 23, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective June 9, 2015.